

Message Text

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O 121755Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 007390

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 0440 ACTION SECSTATE, TEL AVIV,
INFO GENEVA JAN. 11,

QUOTE

S E C R E T MOSCOW 0440

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJECT: SOVIET POSTURE ON ME

GENEVA FOR USDEL MEPC

REF: TEL AVIV 0120

1. REFTTEL REQUESTED EMBASSY MOSCOW'S VIEW OF CURRENT SOVIET ME POSTURE, IN LIGHT APPARENT SHIFT IN ISRAELI PERCEPTIONS.
2. EBAN'S ASSESSMENT OF THE SOVIET POSTURE SEEMS CONSISTENT WITH GENERALLY POSITIVE LINE SOVIETS HAVE TAKEN ON GENEVA CONFERENCE. ACCUMULATED EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT SOVIETS HAVE
SECRET

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MOVED AWAY FROM VIEW THAT HIGHLY UNSTABLE SITUATION GIVES THEM THE BEST MEANS OF EXERTING INFLUENCE IN ME. MOSCOW'S MORE FLEXIBLE TACTICAL APPROACH STEMS FROM THE IMPORTANCE SOVIETS PLACE ON DETENTE, THE DANGER OF CONFRONTATION IF

PRESENT INSTABILITY CONTINUES, AND THEIR VIEW OF ME AS TESTING
GROUND OF THEIR GREAT POWER STATURE.

3. AGREEMENT ON DISENGAGEMENT UNDER AUSPICES OF SOVIET-U.S.
COSPONSORED GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD THUS SERVE SOVIET INTERESTS
BY DEFUSING EXPLOSIVE SITUATION AND ENHANCING SOVIET CREDENTIALS
AS CO-EQUAL WITH U.S. IN ME AFFAIRS. WHETHER SOVIETS WILL SEE
FURTHER PROGRESS AT GENEVA IN SAME LIGHT, HOWEVER, REMAINS TO
BE SEEN. THEIR POSITIVE PUBLIC TREATMENT OF CONFERENCE AND
THEIR INITIAL PLAYING DOWN OF SUCH POTENTIALLY DISRUPTIVE ISSUES
AS PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IS A POSITIVE SIGN. IF CONFERENCE
MOVES FROM DISENGAGEMENT TO THORNIER ISSUES, HOWEVER, SOVIETS
MAY BE FACED WITH TRICKIER QUESTIONS AFFECTING THEIR INTERESTS.

4. GROMYKO'S INDICATION THAT SOVIETS WOULD BE PREPARED TO
REESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL IF "IMPORTANT
PROGRESS" TAKESPLACE AT PEACE CONFERENCE ALSO APPEARS CONSISTENT
WITH DEVELOPING SOVIET ME POSTURE AND UNDERSTANDABLE IN REACTION
TO U.S. SUCCESS IN DEALING WITH BOTH SIDES. SOVIETS MAY NOT BE
ABLE TO TAKE THIS STEP ON BASIS OF DISENGAGEMENT ALONE, HOWEVER.
THEY HAVE STRONGLY AND PUBLICLY SUPPORTED LINE THAT DISENGAGEMENT
MUST NOT FREEZE ME SITUATION AND MUST LEAD TO MOVEMENT ON GENERAL
SETTLEMENT. THEY HAVE ALSO HEAVILY SUPPORTED MOVEMENT TO ISOLATE
ISRAEL DIPLOMATICALLY. TO REVERSE THIS POLICY WITHOUT MAJOR
PROGRESS AT GENEVA WOULD SEEM UNLIKELY UNLESS THE ARABS THEMSELVES
SAW MERIT IN SOVIETS DOING SO. FINALLY, WHILE SOVIETS ARE
ALERT FOR OPPORTUNITIES, WE DOUBT THAT THEY OVERESTIMATE THEIR
POTENTIAL INFLUENCE IN ISRAEL IF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE
ESTABLISHED.

5. WE ALSO INVITE ATTENTION TO MOSCOW'S 15345, WHICH ATTEMPTS
TO DESCRIBE SOVIET ME POLICY IN CONTEXT OF BROADER SOVIET
OBJECTIVES. DUBS

UNQUOTE RUSH

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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